

The „geo“ URI scheme

`draft-mayrhofer-geopriv-geo-uri-01`

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What is the „geo“ URI scheme?

- An URI is "a compact sequence of characters that identifies an abstract or physical resource" (RFC 3986)
- ‚geo‘ URIs **identify** such **physical resources (a geographic location)** using a textual representation of the location's spatial coordinates in either two or three dimensions (latitude, longitude, and optionally altitude).
Eg:

geo:37.7856,-122.4105

- Compact, simple, human readable, independent from application, protocol or data format.

Use cases

- Plain URI (typed into navigation device)
- Hyperlink within HTML document (with context from the anchor text)
- Encoded/printed in 2D barcode (decoded via camera by mobile phone)
- ... wherever a protocol supports any URI scheme.
 - vCard
- Replace opaque „lat/lon“ style data that has no or weak semantics with a „properly“ defined representation

Syntax

`geo:<lat>,<lon>[,<alt>]`

- WGS 84, as simple as possible
- More syntax options / idea feedback (currently not in the draft):
 - URI parameters (eg. privacy-related)
`geo:48,16;param=value`
 - Query string (to be interpreted by application)

Actual use

- Implemented in Android (fires up map when „geo:“ URI is clicked in browser). Thanks to Ray Bellis for spotting that!
- <http://developer.android.com/guide/appendix/g-app-intents.html>
- Example: <http://nona.net/tool/geouri.html>



Status / next steps

- Changes in -01
 - Better WGS 84 terminology (Carl Reed)
 - Removed weak „resolution/uncertainty“ text
 - Added considerations regarding poles and invalid locations
- Feedback?
- WG adoption?